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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Agencia Latinoamericana de Información

(Special consultative status granted in 1998)

I. Introduction

i. Purpose and activities

- To promote more democratic communication structures and practices, since citizens' access to information and freedom of expression is a fundamental element of democratic society.
- To promote citizens' participation in development processes, as a means of overcoming social marginalization and redressing inequalities.
- To strengthen Latin American cultural identity and integration, promoting intercultural exchange and values of mutual respect, necessary for regional and world-wide peace and harmonious coinhabitance of the Earth.
- To develop democratic international information network oriented to the empowerment of civil society.
- To promote broad access to and use of new communication technologies as a tool for development and for democratic access to information and communication.

ii. Main course of action:

- ALAI formulates proposals and carries out advocacy work on communications rights issues.
- It organizes seminars, meetings, training workshops on communication for development, and undertakes research on related issues.
- It systematizes and disseminates information on issues relating to development, democratic participation and human rights. This information is disseminated mainly to civil society organizations, opinion leaders, development agencies and media.
- It develops and supports networking on social and development issues.

iii. Changes

During the 2002 – 2005 reporting period new by-laws were adopted by the general assembly and approved by the legal authorities in 2004. These do not modify the aims and purposes of the organization. The categories of honorary and associate members were added to active membership category. The assembly quorum was changed and the new by-laws now allow for on-line meetings and assemblies. New obligatory clauses regarding observation of tax laws, for foundations registered in Ecuador, were included.

II. Contribution to work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and major United Nations Conferences

1) The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) - Geneva phase:

At all of the following events, ALAI representatives attended and lobbied in relation to communication rights. They were active in organizing civil society input and a representative of ALAI co-coordinated the "Civil Society Content and Themes Working Group" during this whole phase, including on-line networking between events. A member of ALAI coordinated the drafting of the Civil Society Declaration "Shaping Information Societies for Human Needs", which was presented at the Geneva Summit:
(http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en?&id=1179|1208)

- First session of the Preparatory Committee: (1-5 July 2002, Geneva)
- Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference: (29-31 January 2003, Bávaro, Dominican Republic)
- Second session of the Preparatory Committee: (17-28 February 2003, Geneva)
- Third session of the Preparatory Committee: (15-26 September 2003 and 9 December 2003, Geneva)
- The Summit: (10-12 December 2003, Geneva)

2) The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) - Tunis phase:

At the following events, ALAI attended and lobbied in relation to communication rights and financing for ICT development, contributed to civil society collective input and made interventions at the side events in Tunis.

- PrepCom-2 : (17-25 February 2005, Geneva)
- PrepCom-3: (13-15 November 2005, Tunis)
- The Summit: (16-18 November 2005, Tunis)

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

ALAI participated and contributed actively to civil society collective input, especially on communication rights issues in the following WSIS-related events:

- "Consultations with non-governmental organizations", (22-23 April 2002, Paris) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- "Foro Internacional: América Latina y el Caribe en la Sociedad de la Información", UNESCO (26-28 September 2002, Rio de Janeiro).

- Reunión Técnica Regional Preparatoria de América Latina y el Caribe, Quito, May 4-6 2005, UNESCO/Programa de la Sociedad de la Información para América Latina y el Caribe (INFOLAC)

Also, as a contribution to the preparation of Latin American civil society organizations for participation in WSIS, ALAI organized several meetings and edited publications on related issues.

iii. Initiatives undertaken in support of development goals:

Millennium Development Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development:

- *In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies—especially information and communications technologies. (ICTs)*

ACTIONS: Training and orientation in communications and ICTs for Latin American peoples' organizations (especially in the rural and indigenous sector) = 50 organizations

2. Baha'í International Community

(Special consultative status granted in 1970)

Introduction

The Bahá'í International Community (BIC) is an international non-governmental organization with affiliates in over 180 countries and territories, which together represent over five million members of the Bahá'í Faith. As an international NGO, the Bahá'í International Community interacts and cooperates with the United Nations, its specialized agencies, governments, as well as with inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Community seeks to promote and apply principles – derived from the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith – which contribute to the resolution of current day challenges facing humanity and the development of a united, peaceful, just, and sustainable civilization. At this time, the work of the Community focuses on the promotion of a universal standard for human rights, the advancement of women, and the promotion of just and equitable means of global prosperity.

Summary of Activities Supporting the Work of the United Nations

The Bahá'í International Community monitored 57th – 60th regular and 2002 special sessions on children of the General Assembly, and 2002 – 2005 substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council, its commissions, sub-commissions, committees, and working groups, contributing as appropriate. Commissions attended included 58th – 61st sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (and 54th – 57th session of its sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights), 46th – 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 40th, 42nd – 43rd session of the Commission for Social Development, 10th, 12th – 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as 30th session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and 60th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Community also participated in the 2002 World Assembly on Ageing, 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2003 Geneva and 2005 Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society,

2004 Global Forum on Internet Governance, 2005 World Summit, and 2005 International Criminal Court Assembly of States Parties, among others.

Leading up to the General Assembly's World Summit, the Bahá'í International Community closely followed negotiations and recommendations concerning United Nations reform, making submissions to the Commissions and United Nations offices as appropriate. BIC representatives were chosen by United Nations organizers from among many NGOs to participate in two pioneer events leading up to the World Summit: the United Nations Conference on Interfaith Cooperation and Peace and the General Assembly's interactive hearings. Special contributions in areas of interest are highlighted below.

During the reporting period from January 2002 to December 2005, representatives of the Bahá'í International Community attended over 300 United Nations-sponsored meetings, contributing 29 statements and position papers, including six joint statements. Statements can be accessed at http://www.bic-un.bahai.org, covering various issues concerning human rights, children, women, situation of Bahá'í communities and other development issues.

Advancement of Women

As Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the Bahá'í International Community played a pivotal role in facilitating and organizing the participation of over 2,500 civil society representatives from nearly 600 NGOs at both the 48th and 49th sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Community's representatives also chaired the Commission on the Status of Women International Planning Group. The Bahá'í International Community's Principal Representative addressed the International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming (co-sponsored by the Office of the Pakistani Prime Minister) and spoke on a United Nations High-Level Panel marking its efforts to promote gender equality. The Community offered a statement on the Role of Men and Boys in achieving gender equality.

Human Rights

The Bahá'í International Community took an active role in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, leading up to this anniversary, the Community issued a statement on 6 October 2005, stressing the importance of religious freedom, titled *Freedom to Believe: Upholding the Standard of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. This was followed by a BIC-hosted Symposium in New York on 25 October 2005, with expert speakers to discuss the status of this right under international law. During part of the reporting period 2002-2005, BIC served as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court, representing the Network at meetings with the International Criminal Court and United Nations officials.

The Community actively followed the work of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, meeting with special mechanisms on a regular basis and making statements pertaining to issues under consideration by the Commission, such as the situation of minorities in various countries. Representatives closely monitored the negotiations concerning the mandate of the proposed Human

Rights Council and submitted recommendations for strengthening the human rights work of the United Nations.

Development and Global Prosperity

In keeping with its goal of promoting just and equitable means of global prosperity, the Bahá'í International Community closely monitored debates and proposals for United Nations reform. Commenting on the Secretary General's report, "In Larger Freedom," the Community put forth concrete recommendations for strengthening the United Nations work in the area of human rights, gender, and development. On the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, the Community released a major statement, titled *The Search for Values in an Age of Transition,* in which it set out further recommendations for improving United Nations work in areas of collective security, development, human rights, and the promotion of democracy.

NGO Community Work

As an active participant in the NGO activities at the United Nations, Bahá'í International Community representatives served as officers on over 10 NGO committees, most notably as Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (one of the largest NGO Committees), Chair of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court, Vice-President of the NGO Committee Against Racism and Racial Discrimination, Secretary of the NGO Committee for Social Development, and Convener of Advocates for African Food Security.

Information Activities

ONE COUNTRY is the quarterly newsletter of the Bahá'í International Community. Each 16-page issue contains several in-depth feature stories on the United Nations, noteworthy social and economic development projects, environmental efforts or educational programs, along with an editorial that addresses world problems from a Bahá'í point of view. It is published in English, French, Chinese, Russian, German and Spanish, and is currently mailed to more than 30,000 readers in more than 170 countries. The newsletter has included articles on the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, the General Assembly's Interactive Hearings, the United Nations Conference on Interfaith Cooperation and Peace, as well as features about United Nations reform. An annex to this report containing detailed United Nations related activities of the organization was made available to the NGO Section for further consultations.

3. International Council on Jewish Social and Welfare Services

(Special consultative status granted in 1962)

INTERCO was created in 1962 to formalize the de facto cooperation that existed since World War Two, when its founding members, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC), Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Organization for Rehabilitation Through TRAINING (WORLD ORT), UK Jewish Aid for International Development (WJAID), World Jewish Relief (WJR), were engaged in the

rescue, relief, resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons across Europe and Asia, victims of Nazi persecution and other forms of discrimination and oppression in Eastern Europe, and in more recent years, in the former Yugoslavia.

The cooperation among INTERCO members has extended to such areas as projects for the assistance to victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, emergency relief in the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, and to alleviating the acute humanitarian situation in Sudan.

Members of INTERCO meet periodically to review their program activities and coordinate policies on matters of common concern, in their international development programs as well as providing relief and assistance to victims of man made and natural disasters. In this way, INTERCO seeks to implement the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions that have a bearing on the specific activities of INTERCO's members.

During the course of the last reporting period, INTERCO has continued to be represented as an observer at all the sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNHCR) in Geneva (58th session - 18 March - 26 April 2002, 59th -17 March - 25 April 2003, 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights - 15 March - 23 April 2004, and 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights – 14 March – 22 April 2005), as well as sessions of the Sub Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (55th session , 56th session and 57th session (28 July – 15 August 2003), 58th session (26 July – 13 August 2004) and 59th session (25 July – 12 August 2005) as well as other UNCHR organs, with particular reference to agenda items on issues of humanitarian concern particularly as regards movements of refugees and internally displaced persons. It has also followed developments with respect to the plight of children dealt with by the Committee on the Rights of the Child with respect to issues arising out of the reports of state parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Further, INTERCO has followed the meetings of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR for Refugees as well as of its Standing Committee on questions dealing with processing requests for asylum and other protection issues affecting refugee status determination. INTERCO has maintained its policy of coordinating its humanitarian programs in conformity with the guidelines and recommendations of the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance.

During the period under review, the Jewish Agency for Israel decided to concentrate its budgetary resources and activities on the absorption and integration of new immigrants in Israel. At the same time, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement found a solution for the long standing problem of the admission to its membership of the Magen David Adom Society as the National Society of Israel. It was brought about by the adoption in December 2005 by the Diplomatic Conference of the State Parties to the Geneva Convention of the Third Additional Protocol introducing the Red Crystal as the third recognized protective emblem for the purposes of the Four Geneva Humanitarian Conventions. [This process was completed in June 2006 by the admission to membership of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the MDA with its emblem, the Red Shield of David (MDA), in conjunction with the use of the protective emblem of the Red Crystal, as the National Society of Israel. Following its formal recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the MDA Society's admission into full membership of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was finalized. This development has opened up perspectives for fruitful cooperation between the MDA and INTERCO for providing international

assistance and development projects of mutual interest within the framework of MDA's entry into membership of INTERCO].

Programs and activities: As a result of the coordination among INTERCO agencies and pursuant to principles and policies established by the above mentioned United Nations organs and bodies, member agencies have throughout the reporting period continued to engage in the following programs mainly of a non-sectarian and inter-denominational character:

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC - www.jdc.org)

JDC acts as the overseas arm of the American Jewish community, serving Jewish communities in over 60 countries. Since its inception 92 years ago, activities have also been conducted for needy non-Jewish populations. This non-sectarian work was formalized in 1986 with the establishment of the International Development Program (JDC-IDP). JDC conducted the following non-sectarian development and disaster relief projects in 2002-2005: Reaching Vulnerable Children in Argentina; Services for the Elderly & Disabled, and Women's Health Empowerment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Roma Community Development in Czech Republic; Public Health & Educational activities in Ethiopia; Women's Health Empowerment in Hungary; Mental Health Infrastructure Development & Education and Youth Services in Kosovo (Serbia); Roma Vocational Training in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Coping with Breast Cancer, Cross-Border Partnership in Early Childhood Development, Survey on Health Behaviors in Children, Child Rehabilitation Initiative for Safety & Health, & Promoting Home Safety in Israel & the Occupied Palestinian Territory; Assistance to Roma Holocaust Survivors in Poland; Assistive Devices Program & Aid to Special Needs Children in the Russian Federation; Educational Support in Rwanda; Humanitarian Aid & Small Business Development in Montenegro and Serbia; Working Children's Projects in Turkey. Asia Earthquake Relief: Following the 2005 Kashmir quake, AJJDC supported NGOs to provide aid. A comprehensive project with the International Blue Crescent is rehabilitating a village. Asia Tsunami Relief: Following the 2004 tsunamis, JDC and local partners began extensive relief programs in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia with focus on providing emergency assistance, community rehabilitation, and training in psycho-social support, re-establishing livelihoods, and assistance to children. Flood Relief was provided in Haiti/Dominican Republic, India and Romania in 2004-2005. Niger Famine Relief: JDC supported Catholic Relief Service's livelihood security project for 320,000 in 2004-2005. Aid to Beslan, Russia Terror Victims was provided in 2004, including the provision of material assistance and a trauma relief project in collaboration with UNHCR. Assistance to Turkey's Terrorist Victims was provided in 2003-2004.

The European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC) **(www.ecjc.org)**

ECJC enjoys participative NGO status with the Council of Europe and consultative NGO status with the Commission of the European Union (EU), and is a networking agency that enables coordination with community leaders and professionals from 42 countries. From 2002-2005, ECJC reached out to thousands in over 100 activities conducted to improve communal practice/skills in capacity development, culture/heritage, education, Jewish contribution to civil society, and representing community interests with governments and social welfare. ECJC emphasizes the positive contributions of Jewish teaching and traditions; integration; diversity and common citizenship. In 2004, ECJC organized the Third General Assembly of European Jewry. The Council and its members

continue to seek to combat intercultural conflict (xenophobia, racism including anti-Semitism) together with like minded organizations pursuant to United Nations and Council of Europe human rights norms and policies. ECJC's primary activities are sharing information and networking to promote best practice. ECJC is having the second edition of the conference European Encounters, supported by several foundations for new accessing countries to the EU where the system of the EU is presented and speakers from different departments discuss their activities. The ECJC co-organizes the annual European Day of Jewish Culture, the largest cultural outreach event.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) **(www.hias.org)**

HIAS is the oldest international migration and refugee resettlement agency in the United States of America. Its mission of rescue, resettlement and reunion is based on the collective Jewish experience, and Jewish values related to freedom and protection to strangers. From 2002-2005, HIAS sponsored the movement of 9,774 Jewish and non-Jewish refugees from the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Africa, South-East Asia and South America to other countries, and assisted tens of thousands living in countries of first asylum with psychosocial support. Key activities follow: UNITED STATES: HIAS provided extensive services to refugees and immigrants seeking benefits, including direct legal counseling. HIAS-Washington played a key role in implementing its protection agenda, and educating and conveying HIAS positions to policymakers/governmental agencies. RUSSIAN FEDERATION: HIAS operated two programs in Moscow to benefit United States-bound refugees. The Moscow Migrant Counseling (MMC) program assisted thousands of applicants to the United States Refugee Program (USRP). The Cultural Orientation (CO) program provided refugees with essential information about immigration and post-settlement issues. UKRAINE: HIAS initiated a Kiev satellite program designed to function as a branch of the Moscow-based MMC program. In 2003, HIAS became an implementing partner with UNHCR in Ukraine on Kiev's Legal Protection Services. ISRAEL: HIAS' activities focused on assisting immigrants, and on maintaining open channels between American and Israeli Jews, and included regular collaboration with UNHCR. AUSTRIA: HIAS holds a contract with the United States to operate the Overseas Processing Entity (OPE) in Vienna, to assist those seeking entree to the United States through the USRP, most of whom are Iranian religious minorities, Jews, Christians, Baha'is, Zoroastrians, and Mandaeans. KENYA: HIAS established the Refugee Trust to respond to increasingly urgent needs of 250,000 refugees who sought protection from conflicts in other states. CHAD: HIAS created a psychosocial initiative for Darfurian refugees living in Chad, which received support from UNHCR, the United States Department of State, and Jewish Coalition for Sudan Relief. ARGENTINA: To help local Jews during the economic crisis, HIAS created a multi-faceted migration assistance program, and HIAS joined UNHCR and the Government to help resettle Colombian refugees. ECUADOR: HIAS established the Counseling Initiative for Colombian Refugee Survivors of Trauma, and is working closely with UNHCR and local NGOs.

World Jewish Aid (WJAID) **(www.worldjewishaid.org.uk)**

WJAID is the non-sectarian aid arm of World Jewish Relief (below) and it continues to represent the Jewish Community of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in responding to humanitarian needs overseas. This work addresses emergency relief and longer-term programs such as the following: Asia: WJAID is helping to rebuild lives and livelihoods in Sri Lanka, Tamil Nadu,

Indonesia and Thailand following the tsunamis, and is also conducting Kashmir earthquake relief. Africa: WJAID continues humanitarian work, including a program for street children in Rwanda, small business projects in Kenya and HIV/AIDS initiatives in Malawi and Zambia. Eastern Europe: WJAID focuses on sustainable projects in health, livelihoods, education and support to civil society. Examples include Romani small business support in Serbia, psycho-social training in Kosovo (Serbia), and homecare for elderly in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The "Time for Life" program, a joint WJR/WJAID initiative, encourages and supports young people to volunteer in Argentina, Ukraine, and South Africa and, most recently, China.

World Jewish Relief (WJR) **(www.worldjewishrelief.org.uk)**

Since 2002, WJR has continued to provide assistance to the needy, maintaining its welfare operations, providing food, clothing, medication and emergency relief worldwide. Its work is divided into the following six areas that cater to the differing needs of people in Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania, Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and it continues to meet the needs mainly of Jewish refugees coming to the United Kingdom. Refugees entering the United Kingdom still look to WJR for practical and financial help, and assistance with the asylum process, WJR's core activity. Focus continues with children in Eastern Europe and assisting mentally or physically handicapped children and young adult. The elderly have been particularly affected by the collapse of communism, and WJR continues to support welfare centers in Ukraine. Renewal programs that provide the opportunity for people to learn about their heritage are an increasingly vital component, particularly in Ukraine. The Gifts in Kind program, much of which is inter-denominational, has also expanded.

World ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training – www.ort.org)

ORT is the largest education and training NGO in the world, and during the reporting period, demand for ORT's services grew as new entities joined the ORT network, notably in Israel, the Russian Federation, Italy, Ukraine and the Czech Republic. ORT is recognized by governments and corporations including Coca Cola and ExxonMobil, who selected ORT to implement their corporate social responsibility and technology education programs abroad. Israel is ORT's largest network, and has focused on emergency activities that address trauma, social and security needs, as well as education. ORT's commitment to countries in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics continues to increase, as the number of students in the region has increased dramatically. ORT supports Jewish and non-Jewish communities, focusing on new computer and centers and training in struggling towns. ORT is also assisting several economically-challenged countries in Latin America. ORT is working in Eastern Europe, helping Bulgaria and the Czech Republic to modernize work skills. Following the South-East Asia tsunamis, ORT is working in Sri Lanka and India in vocational training, livelihood recovery, trauma counseling and education. ORT's International Cooperation arm continues to assist thousands in South Africa, Namibia and Ukraine.

4. International First Aid Society

(Special consultative status granted in 1998)

INTRODUCTION:

The International First Aid Society (IFAS) was established on 7 January 1980 in Greece, with a corresponding office established in Nigeria in March 1980. The Society was incorporated on 4 August 1994 and through a special bilateral agreement of technical cooperation signed with the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Society established her International Operational Headquarters at Abuja, Nigeria in 1997 and co-ordinates her world wide activities through the Abuja office. The Society's office in Greece is still functional but mainly co-ordinates the European activities of the society. The society has the following purposes;

1. Promotion of Primary Health Care with special interest in Africa and the developing countries.

2. Promotion of basic education for both children and adults, in literacy, human rights, general knowledge and skills.

3. Youth development and empowerment through seminars, workshops and leadership training.

4. Promotion of international friendship and world peace through active collaboration and support of United Nations aims, objectives and purposes.

5. Teaching and rendering first aid and related services to the needy, in times of peace and war, especially to victims of accidents, natural disaster, war and refugees.

The Society was granted the special category consultative status in 1998 and since then, has been very tenaciously pursuing her stated goals and relating with United Nations Headquarters and its subsidiary bodies. Since the last report was submitted, the Society has added the following new organizational members; (1) IFAS Club of Mary Land, USA (2) IFAS Club of New Jersey, United States of America.

AFFILIATION:

The International First Aid Society (IFAS) is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative relationship with United Nations – CONGO.

PARTICIPATION IN UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS

The International First Aid Society participated in relevant meetings and conferences of United Nations and its subsidiary bodies during this four year period (from 2002 to 2005). The Society's representatives and delegates attended the 27th special session of the General Assembly on Children 8–10 May 2002 at United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States of America. On 3 February 2003, the Society's representatives attended a briefing at United Nations Headquarters on the Role of World Health Organization and NGOs in Global Health and Social Development.

At the briefing, Dr. Alex Cohen urged related NGOs to participate actively in public and community health.

5-6 February 2003, the Representative of the International First Aid Society attended the annual DPI/NGO orientation program at United Nations Headquarters, New York, including the guided tour of United Nations Headquarters.

On 10 February 2003, the Society Representative attended the 41st session of the Commission for Social Development at United Nations Headquarters, New York with the theme "National and International Cooperation for Social Development; Forging Partnerships for Social Development and the Social Responsibility of Private Sector".

On 10 February 2003, the Society's Representative also attended two side events – titled – Poverty Reduction, Strategies – the experience to date by the World Bank and the impact of 9/11 on New York children – an International Agenda".

On 17 February 2003, the Society's representative attended a Department of Public Information/NGO Communication workshop at United Nations Headquarters, organized by the Department of Public Information/NGO Executive Committee in collaboration with Toastmasters International; with theme – "Building Leadership Skills; Speaking and Listening".

The Society's International President, Representative and Delegates attended the 56th annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference at United Nations Headquarters, New York from 8 to 10 September 2003.

The Society's Representative attended the 48th Conference of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held at headquarters 1-12 March 2004 and 8-10 September 2004, the Society's Representative and delegates attended and actively participated in the 57th Annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference at United Nations Headquarters with the theme: Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action". The Society participated actively in the discussions and during the public hearing session.

The Society's Representative attended the 43rd session of the Commission for Social Development from 9-18 February 2005 at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

The Society's Representative attended the 49th session of the CSW from 28 February to 11 March 2005 at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

The Society's Representative and delegate attended the 4th session of the Permanent Forum on indigenous issues at United Nations Headquarters from 16-27 May 2005.

The Society's Representative attended a DPI/NGO briefing titled "The Role of Microfinance in Reaching the Poorest of the Poor" on 13 October 2005 at United Nations Headquarters.

In all these meetings, the Society shouldered all the financial expenses including the air tickets, accommodation and transportation of all her delegates and Representatives.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRST AID SOCIETY TO THE WORK OF ECOSOC

1. The Society regularly published an informative article for the public on the aims and activities of United Nations in the Society's Newsletter called "The Floga".

2. The Society sponsored and celebrated the following special days and events in major cities of Nigeria and in Greece through seminars and special workshops, Radio and television programs from 2002 – 2005.

(i) 8 March, United Nation's Day for Women's Rights and International Peace; (ii) 21 March, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; (iii) 7 April, World Health Day; (iv) 15 May – International Day of Families; (v) 4 June, International Day for Innocent Children Victims of Aggression; (vi) 5 June, World Environment Day; (vii) 16 June, Day of the African Child; (viii) 8 September, International Literacy Day; (ix) 1 October, International Day of Older Persons; (x) 17 October, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty; (xi) 24 October, United Nations Day; (xii) 20 November, Universal Children's Day; (xiii) 1 December, World AIDS Day; (xiv) 3 December, International Day of Disabled Persons; (xv) 10 December, Human Rights Day

3. The Society assisted many disaster areas in Nigeria during this period by providing relief materials and first aid services free of charge.

4. The Society in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health, Nigeria carried out immunization campaigns in schools, markets and homes in Enugu Nigeria, against Polio, Measles and Hepatitis from 2002 to 2005.

5. The Society is collaborating with the Federal Government of Nigeria and many State Governments in the areas of poverty reduction by creating jobs and teaching gainful skills to the numerous unemployed youths of Nigeria. The Society hopes that in the next four years, the relationship between the Society and United Nations shall bear more fruits.

5. International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions

(Special consultative status granted in 1998)

1. **Introductory statement:**

INTOSAI is an autonomous, independent and nonpolitical organization established as a permanent institution in order to foster the exchange of ideas and experiences among the Supreme Audit Institutions on government auditing. Means to achieve these aims:

a) INTOSAI is a leader in public sector auditor training. Its biennial seminars sponsored jointly with the United Nations provide training for members of Supreme Audit Institutions of developing countries.

b) INTOSAI's goal of promoting communication and enhancing professional development is achieved through the publication of:

- the International Journal of Government Auditing (published quarterly in INTOSAI's five working languages);
- INTOSAI Circulars, issued by the General Secretariat to inform members of INTOSAI activities;
- a Membership Directory, updated annually, a complete listing of all member Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI); and

- Congress Proceedings, which include congress conclusions and recommendations, which SAIs may use to strengthen their office and their independence

In addition, INTOSAI's committees, sub-committees, working groups, task forces and training programs also publish a wide variety of professional materials.

c) INTOSAI members also provide training courses and fellowships on a bilateral basis to countries in Africa and Eastern European.

d) The INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) was established in 1986 to provide regional training programmes with a train-the-trainer focus.

More detailed information is available on the INTOSAI website at www.intosai.org. Members of INTOSAI are 186 Supreme Audit Institutions in 5 continents (one organization in each state).

2. **Participation:** The Organization's representatives attended:

- 33rd Meeting of Representatives of Internal Audit Services (RIAS) of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions, 4 to 7 June, 2002, New York. INTOSAI participated as an observer and contributed aspects of external auditing.
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to support the democratization process of the Bosnian Parliament, Sarajevo, 20 to 22 June, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The General Secretary of INTOSAI delivered a statement about the relationship between Parliament and Audit.
- 1st Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration of UN/ECOSOC, 22 to 26 July, 2002, New York. INTOSAI participated as an observer and reported on the results of the INTOSAI Committees and Working Groups.
- 2nd Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration , 4 to 11 April, 2003, New York. INTOSAI participated as an observer and reported on the relationship between internal and external auditing in government administration.
- 34th Meeting of Representatives of Internal Audit Services (RIAS) of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions, 2 to 4 June, 2003, New York. INTOSAI participated as an observer and reported on the results of the INTOSAI Committee of Internal Control Standards.
- 3rd Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, 29 March to 2 April, 2004, New York. INTOSAI participated as an observer and reported about the cooperation between United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and INTOSAI.
- 35th Meeting of Representatives of Internal Audit Services (RIAS) of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions, 9 to 11 June, 2004, Paris, France. INTOSAI participated as an observer and pointed out possibilities of cooperation between RIAS and INTOSAI.

- United Nations Convention against transnational organized Crime, 28 June to 9 July 2004, Vienna, Austria. INTOSAI's input consisted in the SAIs viewpoint on money laundering.
- 4th Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, 4 to 8 April, 2005, New York. INTOSAI participated as an observer and reported on the planned INTOSAI Tsunami Initiative.
- 36th Meeting of Representatives of Internal Audit Services (RIAS) of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions, 9 to 11 November, 2005, Luxembourg. INTOSAI presented methods of auditing tsunami-related aid.

3. Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies:

- 15th United Nations/INTOSAI Seminar "The Role of SAIs in the Audit of Agriculture", 8 to 12 April, 2002 Vienna, Austria
- 16th United Nations/INTOSAI Seminar "The Role of Supreme Audit Institutions in Auditing the Utilization of Funds in the Field of Education", 31 March to 4 April, 2003, Vienna, Austria
- Meeting with a representative of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to discuss cooperation in organizing future joint workshops and seminars, 6 October 2003, Vienna, Austria
- 17th United Nations /INTOSAI Seminar "Symposium on the Independence of Supreme Audit Institutions", 19 to 23 April, 2004, Vienna, Austria
- 18th United Nations /INTOSAI Seminar "Symposium on the Application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the Audit of e-government: A Strategy for Efficiency, Transparency and Accountability ", 18 to 22 April, 2005, Vienna, Austria
- Cooperation and continuous exchange of information with the heads of internal control units of United Nations Office for Internal Oversight Services, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, Universal Postal Union, World Health Organization, World Food Programme, World Intellectual Property Organization, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

4. Other relevant activities:

- Implementing the Millennium Declaration A/RES/55/2: Selecting topics for the United Nations/INTOSAI seminars, in line with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals;
- Close cooperation with Department of Economic and Social Affairs in developing and organizing seminars;
- Contribution of INTOSAI to the five-year-report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Economic and Social Council on the progress made in the field of public administration;
- Joint sponsorship of United Nations/INTOSAI Seminars in Government Auditing for less developed countries.